Hunger for Righteousness: The Sign of a Regenerated Heart

Do you think it is justified for a born-again Christian not to declare all his income and not to pay his taxes?

 Answer: Yes — (incorrect) Explanation: If someone, even if they are poor, works illegally and does not pay taxes, they are directly violating Christ's law. The Lord Jesus taught us to be ready to give to those who ask of us, not to resist those who want to take us to court, but to give them not only our coat, but also our shirt. In Luke 6:29–30, He says, "From one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back."

These commands were given in a specific historical context: the Jews were living under Roman occupation, and Roman soldiers had the legal authority to demand goods, taxes, or even forced labor from the local population.

Lord Jesus did not tell His disciples to revolt, but taught them to respond with a submissive heart in accordance with His commands. This attitude of voluntary submission and renunciation of personal rights reflects the values of those who are in the Kingdom of God.

In the same line of thought, we find His command: "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's..." (Matthew 22:21). The apostle Paul reinforces this principle when he says: "Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed..." (Romans 13:7). This command is not an exception, but a logical continuation of the principle of not resisting those who take by force, and of living in obedience to our Teacher.

The payment of tribute, in the historical context, expresses submission to an authority that is often unjust but ordained by God. In contrast, today's taxes no longer have the oppressive character of taxes, but represent a responsible contribution to the common good, returning to society in the form of infrastructure and public services.

Therefore, refusal to pay taxes is not only a legal offense, but a form of rejection of Christ's commandments. This rejection of the Word shows that the new life that comes from obedience to Christ is not present.

Undeclared work is considered:

• A form of disguised theft, as it involves receiving or offering money in hidden, without paying legal obligations.

• Tax evasion is a form of fraud against the state and society by evading the payment of taxes and duties owed, and is regulated by virtually every country around the globe.

Failure to pay taxes is not a minor mistake, but an act of theft, a crime—a conscious choice to live in disobedience to Christ's commands. The life of a disciple requires complete obedience, including in matters of integrity toward authorities and respect for the law. Deliberately living in sin contradicts the nature of a life transformed by God.

Scripture states in 1 John 3:9: "Whoever is born of God does not sin... and cannot sin, because he has been born of God." This does not mean that the believer never makes mistakes, but that he cannot willfully and continually live in sin because he has been renewed, and the Holy Spirit is working in him to live a life of holiness.

Justifying illegal employment or tax evasion is a clear sign that the heart has not been transformed. A person born of God is sensitive to Christ's commands, loves what is right, and turns away from lawlessness.

Undeclared work, experienced as a way of life, is not just an occasional mistake, but a continuous sin—a deliberate choice to live in dishonesty and disobedience to authority. If you have lived for years in this sin—justifying working off the books or tax evasion—and the church you belong to has tacitly accepted this sin in its midst, then it is in the same condition as you: far from the righteousness that characterizes the Kingdom of God.

Such a church, which does not rebuke sin and call for repentance, is a church without life. Even if activities continue, songs are sung, and sermons are preached, if the Holy Spirit is not working holiness and transformation, the body is dead. And those who belong to such a gathering are dead members— physically present but separated from the life that comes from Christ.

 Answer: No — Explanation: Genuine new birth does not mean not just a simple religious affiliation, but a profound transformation of the heart—a sincere desire to have a righteous character, like the One you follow.

This transformed life manifests itself through real discipleship, in which the Kingdom of God becomes the supreme priority and His righteousness becomes your model for living, as Scripture teaches us: "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness..." (Matthew 6:33).

It is a life lived as Christ lived, in truth, integrity, and submission to the demands of God's righteousness—a call to renounce all compromise and walk daily in the light, on the narrow path of righteousness.

Even when you experience financial hardship because of unfair competition—when others hide their income and you choose to be honest by paying your taxes—if you remain determined not to compromise, you prove that you are living the practical righteousness that God requires.

This attitude reflects:

• A heart of integrity that honors Christ above profit.

• A deep trust in God's care, even in times of need.

Living in light and truth shows a heart sensitive to God's will and a sincere desire to live in accordance with the values of His Kingdom. Paying taxes, even when those around you choose otherwise, shows a heart that loves justice.

But choosing righteousness is not enough if you do not also choose fellowship with those who walk with a pure heart. If the church you belong to tacitly accepts this sin—such as tax fraud—and you choose to remain in it without taking a stand, you are a partaker of their sin. Scripture clearly warns: “Come out of her, My people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues” (Revelation 18:4). Living in the light also means separating yourself from darkness, even if that choice involves painful breakups. (See also 2 Corinthians 6:14, 17.)

Being a disciple of Christ means choosing the path of the few—the narrow path of righteousness. It is a difficult but blessed path. Rejoice, for the kingdom belongs to those who are persecuted for living with integrity (Matthew 5:10).

This post is an excerpt from the booklet “Are You Truly Born Again? – Biblical Questionnaire”, which you can read in full, free of charge. More studies and resources for spiritual awakening are available at https://www.unmodifiedword.com.